

## **South Shore Estuary Reserve Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

**August 4, 2020 10:00am - 11:30am**

**Zoom Meeting**

In attendance:

### **South Shore Estuary Reserve Office:**

Jeremy Campbell

Sally Kellogg

### **TAC Members:**

Lane Smith, TAC Chair, New York Sea Grant

Corey Humphrey, TAC Vice Chair, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District

Artie Kopelman, CRESLI

Alexa Fournier, NYS DEC

Chris Schubert, USGS

Emily Sweet, Town of Babylon

John Tanacredi, Molloy College

Kathleen Fallon, New York Sea Grant

Kyle Rabin, LINAP

Lou Siegel, NYSMEA

Maureen Dolan-Murphy, Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Environmental Association

Michael Bilecki, National Parks Service

### **Guests**

Emily Hall, Seatuck

Michele Golden, NYSDEC

**Meeting called to order at 10:03am.**

### **Discussion on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)**

Building on the SAV workshop, the TAC should consider focusing on SAV and related issues in the SSER. Discussion will be on the idea of developing an SAV conservation/management plan. What are some data gaps, what parameters should be considered (water quality, groundwater, shellfish, etc.)?

C. Schubert is discussing working with Brad Peterson of SoMAS to see where SAV and groundwater intersect.

**ACTION ITEM:** TAC should consider the NYS management plan for SAV and review what exists related to SAV.

National Parks Service has been monitoring SAV as part of the Northeast coastal barrier network. Brad Peterson has been monitoring for this program. Data is not available to the public, but status reports are released. Suggestion that acidification information is important, and the presence of breaches, should consider modeling breaches.

CERCOM has been monitoring pH in Great South Bay for 22 years. Should reach out to see what data already exists. USGS has been collecting pH measurements. Western Bays monitoring program will collect pH as well. Periodic measurements of pH present a challenge since pH goes through variability.

NYS Ocean Acidification Task Force should present to the TAC.

Army Corps of Engineers just finished their Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation plan which stops breaches from happening in areas that are not federally owned. Part of the plan is to pump sand to the north side of FI in some areas. Should use this to help move our ideas forward.

NOAA is completing an east coast sampling program collecting water samples in the ocean to gather ocean acidification data and see how it may be affecting inland waters. NOAA's North Atlantic Ocean Acidification network is monitoring offshore.

A series of recommendations for management and restoration would be beneficial.

Suggestion to focus on areas from NOAA survey that have not changed from 2002 to 2018.

USGS will be looking at whether groundwater inflow is helping SAV in Bullhead Bay, may be feasible in the SSER.

Is the TAC developing this document or is it a recommendation for the Council to develop? As of now, it looks like a document that the TAC will develop.

Have any other estuary programs done this, and can we use one as a template? Long Island Sound Study has a plan.

**ACTION ITEM:** Has the Climate Vulnerability Assessment letter moved forward? Has not made it to the Council. This should be incorporated into this SAV document.

Suggestion to have something similar to the Unified Water Study in the Reserve done in LI Sound (temperature, using citizen science).

This project can be a very large undertaking. Suggestion to create a sub-committee to focus on this project. Document should include action items moving forward.

Should identify workflow models on how to complete this task and share with everyone.

**ACTION ITEM:** Will share a Google document on the shared drive where everyone can put their ideas/action items.

Are we looking to manage what is already there, explain historic loss, increase SAV in other areas? What is the goal? Recommendation document for people involved in managing SAV, light management suggestions, not action items (ie. increased monitoring, partnerships).

**ACTION ITEM:** Review the 2009 Seagrass Task Force Report.

**SSER Office Updates**

Jeremy Campbell: Thank you to those who participated in the Seagrass Workshop with The Nature Conservancy.

**Review/Approve August Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: pass June meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved.

L. Smith: Move to adjourn

C. Humphrey seconded

**Partner Updates and Other Business**

M. Bilecki: Webinar on August 18<sup>th</sup> about the Fire Island Vulnerability Assessment. Has been peer-reviewed and is available for the public.

K. Fallon: NY Sea Grant is doing a “beach safely” campaign this summer, including a social media campaign, incorporating Covid-19.

L. Smith: NY Sea Grant will have its second webinar in its series in August 20<sup>th</sup> discussing flooding at Lake Ontario.

K. Rabin: Partnership between Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways, Hofstra, and LIRPC to develop a watershed plan. Briefing will be held September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Error in meeting agenda, **October 6<sup>th</sup>** will be the next TAC meeting.

M. Dolan-Murphy: CAC will have a virtual meeting in September.

M. Bilecki: Status of Climate Vulnerability Assessment letter. J. Campbell: Next step is to schedule a Council meeting at which to present the letter.

M. Dolan-Murphy: Mother Nature Bond Act is not moving forward this year, will be considered next year.

J. Campbell: Keep a list of potential projects in the case that the Mother Nature Bond Act moves forward.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Seconded.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:21am.**